GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:95
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
POACHING ELECTROCUTION OF ELEPHANTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many elephant deaths reported in and around the forests of the Nagarhole National Park in Karnataka during the last ten years have been ascribed to unnatural reasons including poaching and electrocution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some vested interests are behind the mysterious deaths of elephants in Nagarhole; and

(d) if so, the measures contemplated by the Union Government to check these elements?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)& (b) As informed by the State Government, death of only 23 elephants has been reported in and around the Forests of Nagarhole National Park during the last ten years. Of the reported cases of death 18 were on account of poaching and five due to electrocution.

(c) Poaching of male elephants for tusks by organized gangs has been reported by the State Government.

(d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme necessary technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Government that includes infrastructure development, improved communication, habitat improvement and wildlife protection. Karnataka Forest Department also has set up anti poaching camps in Nagarhole National Park and intensified patrolling by field staff. Immunization of cattle on the fringe areas is being carried out to prevent spread of diseases among wild elephants.